**American Government**

**Study Guide**

**Ch. 1 – Principles of Government**

1. Know the definitions for the terms in bold type in the chapter.
2. What are the 3 basic kinds of power every government exercises?
3. What are the 4 characteristics of a state?
4. Know the essentials of the purpose of government.
5. What is the difference between a democracy and a dictatorship?
6. What are the 3 basic forms of government that are characterized by a

geographic distribution of power? Be able to give an example of each.

1. What are the differences between the presidential and parliamentary

forms of government?

1. What is the relationship between majority will and minority rights?
2. What are the 4 fundamental factors of the free enterprise system?
3. What role does government play in a free enterprise system?

**Ch. 3 – The Constitutions**

1. Know the definitions for the terms in bold type in the chapter.
2. How can an amendment be ratified?
3. How is the formal amendment process an example of federalism?
4. Why did the framers of the Constitution leave out details?
5. What is a pact made by the President with a foreign head of state without

Senate approval called?

1. What has been a major agent of government change though not mentioned

in the Constitution?

1. Know the following amendments – prohibition, limit of presidential terms,

right to a speedy trial, repeal of prohibition, women’s suffrage, right to bear

arms, voting age of 18, no denial of vote based on race, color, or previous

enslavement

**Ch. 4 – Federalism**

1. Know the definitions for terms in bold type in chapter.
2. Why did framers choose a federal system?
3. Know the powers of the national government, state governments and what

the following terms mean: delegated, expressed, implied, inherent, reserved,

concurrent

1. What is a republican form of government?

**Ch. 5-9**

1. Know the definitions for terms in bold type in chapters.
2. What is a political party? Which party has dominated federal government

in recent decades?

1. How do minor parties demonstrate their influence?
2. To whom does the Constitution give the power to set suffrage qualifications?
3. How did the Civil Rights Act of 1964 affect voting rights?
4. What is preclearance?
5. What is the main reason for non-voting?
6. Who would likely vote split-ticket?
7. What is the meeting of a small group of people to select candidates called?
8. What is the principal method of nominating in most states today?
9. Know the following: sample ballot, party-column ballot, Indiana ballot, bed-sheet ballot.
10. What is public opinion? What influences public opinion?
11. What are interest groups?
12. How do you measure public opinion?
13. What is the main feature of public-interest groups?
14. What approaches are used by public interest groups?
15. What is the main goal of propaganda?